Alberta Treasury
Economic Bulletin

ECONOMIC STATISTICS RELEASED DURING THE WEEK OF June 19 TO June 23, 2000

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month	Month'00/ Month'99	Comments
Retail Sales ($millions)	April			
Alberta	2,631	0.9%	11.1%	In April, Alberta retail sales rose by 0.9% from March; by contrast, national retail sales were down 1.2%. From April 1999 to April of 2000, Alberta (11.1%) had the second greatest increase in retail sales among the provinces behind Prince Edward Island (13.9%). Six of the ten provinces showed declines. The automotive sector (-3.4%) and clothing products (-3.2%) pushed down national sales.
Canada	22,569	-1.2%	5.7%	
Trade Balance	April			
Canada ($millions)	3,172	-22.9%	53.9% [a]	Canada's trade surplus in the first four months of 2000 was 53.9% higher than the same period last year. Exports in April declined more than $1 billion dollars after a $1.5 billion increase in the previous month. All export sectors fell, led by autos. Crude exports fell to the lowest level of the year due to a 14.9% decrease in export prices.
Canadian Composite Leading Index (1992=100)	May 162.7	0.7%	8.4%	The Canadian leading economic indicator has not declined since August 1995. In May, housing was the only one of the ten components of the index that was down. Housing includes housing starts and house sales. Much of the volatility in the Composite Index is due to the wide fluctuations in the stock market.

[a] Y.T.D 2000 / Y.T.D 1999